

California Any Authorized Vendor (AAV) Project **Overview, Submission Options, and Technical Details** **For Grocers and IT Specialists**

What is the Any Authorized Vendor (AAV) Project?

Recent Federal and State legislation requires States to allow WIC participants to redeem their food instruments at any authorized vendor (grocer). Starting in October 2006, California WIC participants will begin receiving food instruments that no longer specify the grocer at which the participant must redeem their food instruments. The food instruments will be payable to "WIC Authorized Vendor" to allow WIC participants to redeem them at the authorized grocer of their choosing.

What is the Plan?

Under AAV, it will be necessary for the grocer to notify WIC of the serial number from each food instrument they redeem since the food instruments will no longer be "grocer specific". Once WIC receives this information, WIC will then notify the State Treasurer's Office (STO) that those food instruments can be paid. Without receiving the serial number information from the grocer, WIC will not be able to authorize the STO to make payment to the grocer.

Options for Submitting Serial Numbers

There are three options for submitting the WIC food instrument serial numbers to WIC. They include using the telephone to submit serial numbers, accessing the internet and specially designed WIC webpage to submit serial numbers, or directly submitting a data file of food instrument serial numbers. These submission options allow California WIC to continue to ensure that only authorized grocers are reimbursed for food and that every redeemed food instrument can be linked to the authorized vendor that redeemed it.

Telephone Option

Using the telephone to submit serial numbers may be best suited for low volume WIC stores without an internet connection. Grocers can use the telephone to submit serial numbers multiple times during day. The telephone process is:

- Dial toll free number
- Enter WIC Vendor ID number at prompt
- Enter serial number(s) of WIC food instruments at prompt
- Phone system does file submission
- Verify submission by contacting WIC Customer Support Help Desk

Internet Access to WIC Website

Accessing the WIC website via the internet to enter serial numbers may be best suited for stores having a computer, web browser and internet connection. No special equipment or software is needed. Grocers can go to the WIC website and submit serial numbers multiple times during day. This process is:

- Logon to WIC website
 - ID and password required for security reasons
 - ID furnished by WIC and associated with WIC Vendor ID number

- Enter serial number(s) of WIC food instruments
- Web screen does file submission
- Verify submission via WIC website

Electronic File Submission

Directly submitting a data file of food instrument serial numbers may be best suited for stores having equipment that can read the WIC food instrument MICR line, such as integrated electronic cash registers or stand-alone MICR readers. Electronic file submission can be accomplished by using the WIC website to send the files, or grocers can set up their back-end systems to batch process files in an automated fashion.

When using the automated batch process for submission, there are several important technical details and specifications to consider for successful submission. These include:

- Assuring that the electronic file submission is sent to WIC via File Transfer Protocol (FTP).
- Assuring that the file of WIC food instrument serial numbers is set up in the correct file layout (file layout for individual store and multiple store locations is included in this document).
- Configuring the FTP client software to allow for feedback on the communication connection.

When sending the file of serial numbers, grocers can use any hardware and/or operating system platform (mainframe, UNIX, PC/Windows) that has outbound connectivity to the internet and has an FTP client with SSL capabilities (i.e., FTPS). We will be communicating to you the details for this FTP connection (such as IP address or DNS Host Name and user identification/password) at a later date.

Many grocers may want to automate the creation of the file (serial numbers of WIC food instruments associated with their WIC vendor ID number) and automate the sending of the file. When automating (with a script or other method) the sending of the file, most grocers might want to include in their script the generation of an alert if the FTP client could not send the file for any of the following reasons:

- FTP client could not connect to the host because of a network error condition or username and password problem,
- A broken connection condition where the FTP client was able to logon to the host and start sending the file but couldn't complete the send,
- Any other return codes that the FTP client is capable of generating that would indicate that the file needs to be sent again.

Grocers may submit batches of WIC food instrument serial numbers multiple times during the day. Once the electronic FTP file submission is established, the nature of this automated routine is reliable. However, if at any time there is uncertainty as to the complete success of a submission, or if a FTP return code indicated an error in transmission, the file can be resent in its entirety.

The following information outlines the specifications of the file layout.

Individual store file record layout:

MVWIX	← Master Header: MVWIX (VWIX tell us this is WIC FI data).
H123456	← Header: H followed by your six digit Vendor ID number.
D4339085805	← Detail: D followed by the 10-digit serial number in the MICR
D4339085811	line at the bottom of the WIC FI. Each FI serial number on its own line.
D4339085822	
T0000003	← Trailer: T followed by the total number of serial numbers. This Trailer field consists of one alpha (T) plus 7 numeric characters. If you submit three serial numbers, the trailer is T0000003, per above example. If you submit 22 serial numbers, the trailer is T0000022.

Some grocers have several stores in their ownership. If grocers want to send more than one store's serial number information in one FTP transmission, the specifications for multiple store submission is as follows.

Multiple store locations file record layout:**Repeat (H)header and (D)etail blocks for each WIC Vendor ID number**

MVWIX	← Master Header: MVWIX (VWIX tell us this is WIC FI data).
H123456	← Header: H followed by your six digit Vendor ID number.
D4339085805	← Detail: D followed by the 10-digit serial number in the MICR
D4339085811	line at the bottom of the WIC FI. Each FI serial number on its own line.
D4339085822	
H123457	← Header: H followed by your six digit Vendor ID number.
D2234567801	← Detail: D followed by the 10-digit serial number in the MICR
D2234567812	line at the bottom of the WIC FI. Each FI serial number on its own line.
D2234567823	
T0000006	← Trailer: T followed by the total number of serial numbers. This Trailer field consists of one alpha (T) plus 7 numeric characters. If you submit six serial numbers, the trailer is T0000006, per above example. If you submit 22 serial numbers, the trailer is T0000022.

The location of the 10-digit serial number on the MICR line of the WIC food instrument is shown in the following graphic. The numbers on the MICR line of the WIC food instrument represent the following:

- 0700 – WIC Account number which identifies this as a WIC check to the State Treasurer's Office
- 121113423 – State Treasurer's Office bank routing number
- Last 10 digits – WIC serial number unique on every individual food instrument

The 10-digit serial number on the MICR line of the WIC food instrument (underlined in red in the graphic below) is the number to be captured and submitted to the state, along with the vendor ID number, to ensure that the WIC Branch can authorize payment for the food instrument.

INDIVIDUAL NO.	PARTICIPANT / PARENT / GUARDIAN	FIRST DAY TO USE	LAST DAY TO USE	SERIAL NO.
462519308PP	PATTY PARTICIPANT	JULY 12 05	AUG 11 05	433902683

WIC PROGRAM
State of California

Pay to the order of:
ANY AUTHORIZED GROCER

VALID FOR WIC APPROVED FOOD ONLY.
VOID IF NOT DEPOSITED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF
"FIRST DAY TO USE." NOT VALID IF ALTERED.

MILK/CHEESE/EGG

Kind to buy:
 *MILK-COW, FLUID
 PASTEURIZED (GALLONS ONLY)
 *CHEESE-CHEDDAR, JACK,
 AMERICAN, MOZZARELLA IN
 0.75 LB (12 OZ) OR LARGER
 *EGGS-AA WHITE, SM, MED, LG

How much to buy: UP TO:
 2 GALLONS MILK, 2 DOZ EGGS
 (DOZENS ONLY) 2 LBS CHEESE

700-433902683

90-1342
1211

EXACT PURCHASE PRICE:

MUST NOT EXCEED:
\$20.97

NOT NEGOTIABLE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE (SIGN AT PURCHASE)

⑈0700⑈ ⑆121113423⑆ 4339026837 ⑈